for construction of over bridge between Nagercoil and Suchindram on Nagar Coil-Kanyakumari broad gauge railway line;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of this report-including expected cost, period required to be completed etc;

(c) whether the over bridge is of a single span or double span; and

(d) whether railway propose to consider a double or more than double span over bridge keeping in view the future expansion of this vital broad gauge line, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A road bridge near Suchindram on National Highway 47 is being provided as part of the new Trivandrum-Nagercoil-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari broad gauge line.

(b) The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 94.45 lakhs. The work is programmed for completion during 1988-89.

(c) The bridge will be for single line.

(d) As it is located on a branch line, there is no proposal to go in for double or more lines at present.

Superfast Train between Bhopal and Bilaspur

1833. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently introduced superfast train between Bhopal to Bilaspur takes almost the same time as an ordinary express 'Chhattisgarh Express' takes between these two stations;

(b) whether extra fare is being charged from the passengers boarding the superfast train;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any demand has been received by development for extending the superfast train upto Indore and what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. 925/926 Bilaspur-Bhopal Express takes about 10 per cent lesser time and will be further speeded up from April, 1987.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Superfast surcharge is recovered from the passengers.

(d) Yes, Sir. The proposed extension has not been found feasible at present.

Private Sector into Dredging Operations

1834. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal for allowing the entry of private sector into dredging operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) There is no ban on the private sector in participting in dredging works in the country. They are already allowed to do so.

(b) Question does not arise.

Navodaya Schools

1835. SHRI KALPNATH RAI.
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schools were started in the States under the title "Navodaya Schools";

(b) what is State-wise number of Navodaya Schools started till date;

(c) what are the special features of these schools; and

(d) what is the mode of admission of students to these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Some Navodaya Vidyalayas have been started in 1985-86 and 86-87.

(b) The number of Navodaya Vidyalayas opened so far State-wise is given in the enclosed statement: (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Special features of Navodaya Vidyalayas and the mode of admission to schools are detailed in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 77].

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Navodaya Vidyalayas opened up to 11-3-1987
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Bihar	7
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
4.	Goa, Daman and Diu	1
5.	Gujarat	2
6.	Haryana	2
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	7
9.	Karnataka	6
10.	Kerala	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7
12.	Maharashtra	6
13.	Meghalaya	1
14.	Orissa	5
15.	Pondicherry	2
16.	Punjab	2
17.	Rajasthan	5
18.	Uttar Pradesh	10
	TOTAL :	76

Indo-Soviet Co-operation in Scientific and Technical Fields on Health

1836. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Soviet Union has signed any memorandum to further expand cooperation in scientific and technical fields in health; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) There is an INDO-USSR agreement of cooperation in the fields of Medical sciences and public health. During the visit of USSR health minister to India in December, 1986 a memorandum was signed to further expand this cooperation. The new areas included in the memorandum for developing further cooperation *inter-alia* include space and aviation medicine, naval medicine, traditional systems of medicine, transplant surgery and community care medical biotechnology and control of diabetes melitus.

Byepass near Indore on 'Agra-Bombay' National Highway

1837. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) when the byepass road near Indore on 'Agra-Bombay' National Highway is likely to be constructed; and

(b) what is the estimated cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) An estimate amounting to Rs. 2.45 crores for land acquisition is under process in this Ministry. The project can start only after the land for the entire